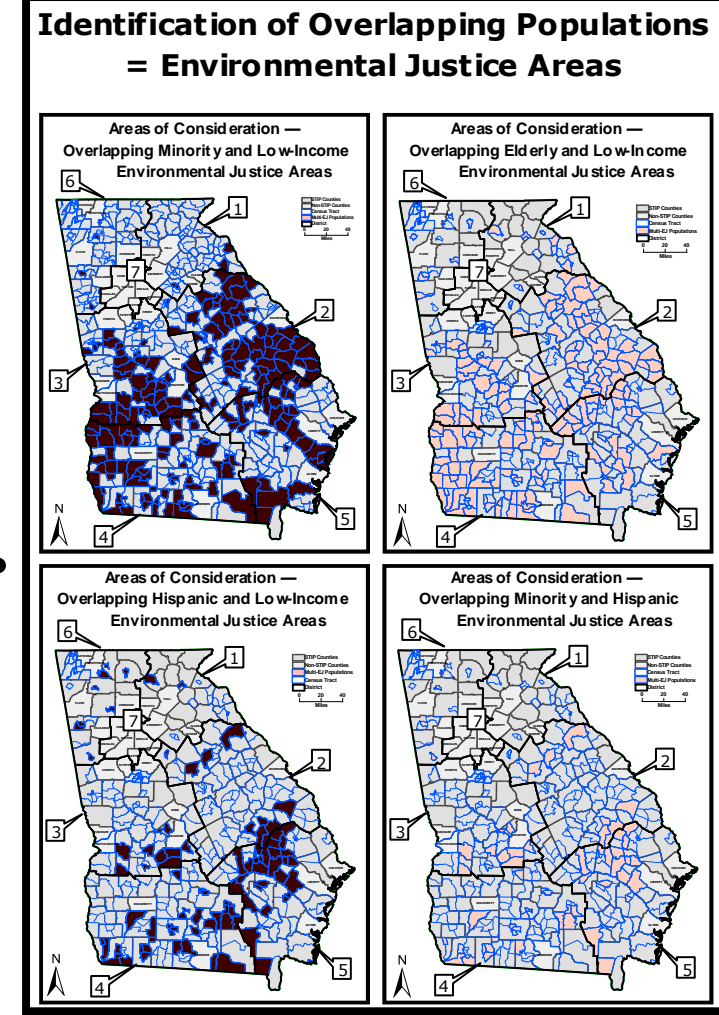
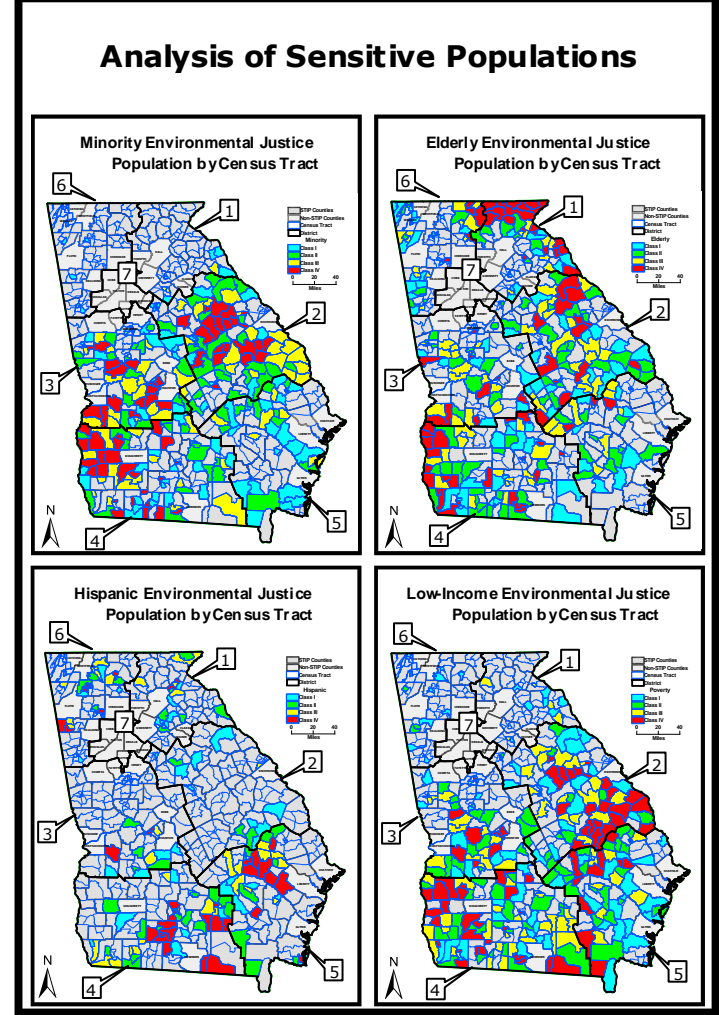
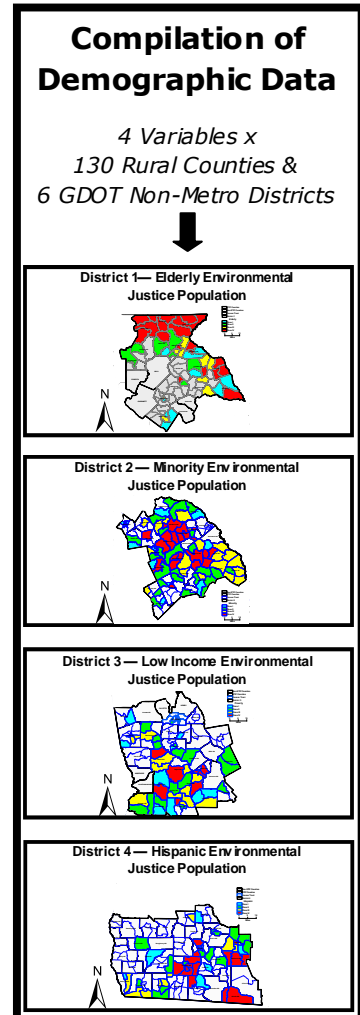
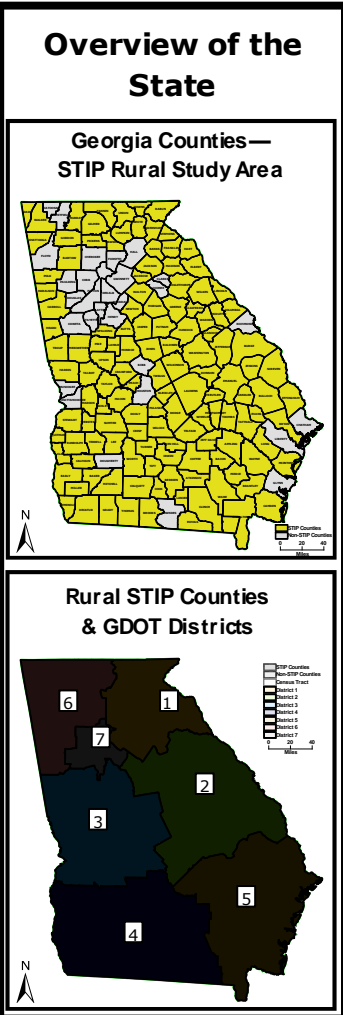




# Environmental Justice Identification & Outreach Strategy

## To Support the State Transportation Improvement Program



### Methodology

The STIP area consists of 621 Census tracts across 130 rural counties in Georgia that are not under the purview of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO). To guide the Environmental Justice (EJ) outreach program, a quantitative analysis of racial, ethnic, income and age demographics was conducted. Data for all census tracts in the rural STIP counties were collected from the 2000 U.S. Census, including total population, total minority population, total Hispanic population, total population below the poverty level, and total population age 65 and above. Each variable was calculated as a percentage of the total population of each Census tract; additionally, summary data was used to calculate STIP-wide percentages for each variable.

Environmental Justice Thresholds	
	STIP-Wide
Minority	27.4%
Hispanic	3.0%
Low-Income	15.5%
Elderly (+65)	11.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Within the rural STIP area, an average percentage for each variable was calculated. This percentage was used as the threshold above which a Census tract level population is considered an EJ population. Where a Census tract's percentage on a variable meets or exceeds the STIP-wide percentage, the Census tract is identified as an EJ community for the purpose of the STIP public involvement process. In other words, an area identified as "EJ" has a larger-than-average percentage of minority, Hispanic, low-income, or elderly residents.

### Innovative Techniques:

- Conducted quantitative analysis of demographics to identify Environmental Justice populations.
- Identified EJ thresholds based on STIP-wide population characteristics.
- Mapped locations of EJ populations for use in analysis.

### Proposed Public Outreach Techniques:

- Coordination of meeting notices with grass-roots organizations representing the interests of environmental justice populations of concern, including neighborhood groups, religious institutions and senior centers.
- Distribution of study information via public libraries, schools, social groups, and community organizations as they express interest or are identified through the stakeholder process.
- Translation services, as needed, to ensure suitable communication.



**For Further Information, contact**

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